

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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Parish Administrator: Clare Hoile

Parish Office hours: Thurs & Fri 9.30 – 12noon

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Peter Sykes dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Frances Pond dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 8 February 2026

Sat 7 Blessed Virgin Mary

National Marriage Week begins

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 8 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Day for Victims of Trafficking

9am Tim Wright RIP

11am Peter Logue RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 9 Feria

9.30am Wellbeing of the Flaherty Family

Tues 10 St Scholastica, Virgin

9.30am Intentions of Cecilia Thompson & Family

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

11am Deanery – St Paul's, Dover

Wed 11 Our Lady of Lourdes – no Mass today

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Thurs 12 Feria

12noon Thanksgiving (BH)

Fri 13 Feria

12noon Frederick Fletcher RIP

Sat 14 Sts Cyril & Methodius, Bishops

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Ints of Archbishop Richard Moth

Sun 15 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Clergy Support Fund – 2nd collection

9am People of the Parish

11am Mary Nilen RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), p590

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:6-10

Response Ps 112: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February 2026, for children with incurable diseases: Let us pray for children suffering from incurable diseases and their families to receive the necessary medical care and support they need, never losing strength and hope.

Parish News

Sick & housebound parishioners: Please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound, all who care for them, and all who have requested our prayers: Marie O'Callaghan, Mary Collins, Mike Sykes, June Bartels, Josie O'Keeffe, Graham Edwards, Maureen Sipek and Paul Dale. Please continue to pray for the good health of HM The King.

Deal's Warm Welcome: During the winter months, do remember Deal's Warm Welcome Scheme where you can get a welcome and refreshments for yourself and your family and friends, as well as anyone else who could benefit: **please see the poster in the porch for locations and times of opening.**

Deal Area foodbank requests: Tinned meats, mince, corned beef or ham, fruit squash, cooking oil, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, custard, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and sponge puddings. Very many thanks.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is now in the **House of Lords** for scrutiny. **The Catholic Union** has [21 suggested points](#) 'to put in your own words in letters to your local newspaper, or newsletters of organisations which you belong to' or to our local MP: mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk

There is very helpful guidance on writing to a Peer on our Bishops' website: [How to write to Peers in the House of Lords – Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

A thank you message from The Bethlehem Nativity Group - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always. *We would love to thank you for allowing us to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families, raising £2274.62. Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land. We don't have enough words to thank you all, but you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, you can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk God bless you all. Love and blessings from The Bethlehem Nativity Group.*

First Reconciliation (Confession) & First Holy Communion 2026: if your child is in Year 3 or above and you would like them to receive these sacraments this year please email the parish office: deal@rcaos.org.uk You must live in the parish and/or attend Mass here. You must also have a **Certificate of Baptism** in a Catholic Church for your child. The deadline for emailing the parish is **27 February 2026.** A meeting will take place for all who have registered for this year's programme. **Please also ensure that you have registered with the parish via our website at:** [Register with the Parish - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church - Deal - Kent](#)

Grateful thanks to Carla and John Letts for erecting and taking down the crib this year, and for repairing many of the crib figures.

Bishop Gerard Bradley was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark (with responsibility for the SW London area of the diocese) on 2 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Please keep Bishop Gerard in your prayers. Please pray, too, for Archbishop-elect Richard Moth, who will be installed as Archbishop of Westminster on 14 February 2026.

Summary of Offertory Giving for January 2026: Cash and bank total: £2,288.37, standing orders £5,498.50, Dona contactless £960.24, Total £8,747.11, of which £1,400.71 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £8,747.11, was £862.03 for the Christmas Offering, £258.23 for the Crib Collection, £66.87 for Pax Christi Peace Sunday, and £61.47 for St George's Cathedral. Special thanks for your support of the Bethlehem Nativity Group last weekend. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

All parishioners: please [Register with The Parish - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church - Deal - Kent](#)
Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes. It is very important to have up-to-date contact details.

Lent 2026

Praying with the Psalms: 3 minute devotions for Lent and Holy Week 2026
by Emily Mae Mentock.
Available in the porch £3 per copy.

Ash Wednesday is 18 February 2026. Here are some of the things we will be doing in the parish for Lent:

Bible Lenten course on Mondays Authored and presented by Dr Edward Sri, **No Greater Love**, filmed in the Holy Land, will bring clarity and depth to Christ's Passion through Scripture, historical context, and further insights. Other well known Catholic presenters, including Fr Mike Smith and Jeff Cavins, will help parishioners better understand why Christ died for us, what his sacrifice accomplished, and how his Passion reveals God's immeasurable and unconditional love. **There are 5 sessions to this course which will be shown at the Becket Centre. Commencing Monday 23rd February 12 noon.** Bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Lenten Lunches on Fridays following the 12noon Mass. Donations will go to CAFOD. This initiative proved very popular last year and we also welcomed members of other churches in Deal.

Children's Liturgy The children will be making a Lenten promise and exploring Pope Leo's message of 'courage and tenderness' during the season of Lent.

Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays at 11am (Sacred Heart Chapel) and Fridays at 6pm (St Thomas). The Stations are an excellent devotional prayer to help us in our appreciation of the season of Lent as a preparation for Easter.

Weekday Mass can be a time of great prayer and a moment to be with God in a special way. Why not commit, if you can, to join in a weekday Mass during Lent?

CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 27 February 2026: There is a 2nd collection for this on the weekend of 28 February / 1 March 2026.

CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk: walk anytime, anywhere, for 40 days and raise funds for life-saving water. For more information, see the poster in the porch or go to: [The Big Lent Walk 2026](#)

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

Welcome to Fr Gabriel Onoyima CSSp, the new parish priest of the parish of the Good Shepherd, Dover & Aylesham. He succeeds Fr Leo Illah CSSp, who has moved to a new appointment in Manchester. Fr Leo had a lovely farewell celebration last weekend.

National Marriage Week 7-14 February 2026

Let us pray for all married and engaged couples as we reflect on the central role that marriage and family life play in our Church and in wider society. More information can be found on the website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales: [Marriage Week - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Team: Building a Better Marriage 2026 - a one-day event in different deaneries 9am - 4.30pm. It's a day where couples can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. **Booking is essential.** The date for our deanery in 2026 is **June 13 Hythe (Dover Deanery).** Please contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Clergy Support Fund Second Collection next weekend: Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show our appreciation for all they have given to the parish communities in which they served. Our prayers and financial contributions make supporting our clergy in retirement possible. Find out how to donate to the **Clergy Support Fund** at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan the QR code in the porch. You can also donate via telephone (office hours Mon-Fri) **020 7960 2504**. There is also a link on our contactless giving machines. Let us keep our Priests in our prayers, especially our retired priests.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED, a Catholic charity, needs your help in supporting those suffering in Gaza and the Holy Land. You can donate via: [Donate to an ACN project](#) or call 0345 646 0110 (quote Holy Land).

Sudan: the situation is very grave for so many people. If you are able to donate to help, please go to: [Sudan Crisis Appeal](#)

Prayer for Peace & Justice

O God of peace, who are peace itself, and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen.

We welcome Mgr Philip Gilbert for the Masses next weekend. fr Brian is in London officiating at a wedding.
A very blessed week, fr Brian